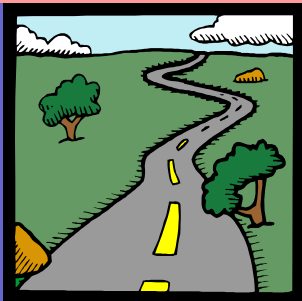


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GILA COUNTY

Public Works Division

Christmas in July!



Well actually preparations for Christmas are taking place this summer at the landfill. According to our Solid Waste Manager, Sharon Radanovich, all the bikes that are coming into the landfill are being collected by the Department of Corrections for repair and refurbishing by the inmates at the prison next to the Fairgrounds. The first load of bikes were collected in July. The bikes will be distributed at Christmas time to needy children, with assistance from the Salvation Army Christmas Program. Many times bikes are just tossed out when the children outgrow them or in need of minor repairs, when parts can be used off of several to make one good bike.



TOP Participants



At the Men's Health Day held recently, Public Works Division had the largest employee participation with 53%. Nationally, insurance premiums increased by an average of 14% this year. Due to the participation by you and some of your fellow employees, in the wellness program, the insurance rate for **ALL** county employees has remained at the same rate as last year. This has allowed Gila County to utilize those dollars saved to give **ALL** employees a cost of living raise and continue the anniversary raises.

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Administration



Starting in the early morning hours of July 15th, Clay-Brunson, from our Timber Region Roads Department went to work cutting down a HUGE pine tree. The pine tree stood at the entrance of the courthouse and it's height extended past the roofline of the courthouse. According to Facilities Manager, Bob Hickman, it was beginning to rub on the roof and cause damage so it had to be cut down. Once it was the cut, Clay & his helper David Slaughter, along with Facilities



guys cleaned up the mess. Later on that week, Tony Lopez had his crew of summer students uproot the stump.

Engineering

In Engineering, the Survey staff continues their program of providing high-precision survey monumentation throughout the County. According to GIS Coordinator, Tom Homan, they are currently, building monuments in the Payson/Pine/Strawberry area in preparation for GPS observations. Their next area will be the communities East of Payson extending to the Colcord/Thompson Draw. Plans following the Colcord area would be South of Payson extending beyond Tonto Basin. The primary goal of this project is to provide very accurate control to the Assessor's office so they can develop good parcel maps. With the parcel data complete, the County can easily support any Homeland Security, Wildfire, flood, etc. project that requires knowing where private land lies in relation to some form of event. Additionally, having a good parcel base will allow P&Z Department to check how surveys coming into the County relate with surrounding land in a faster and more accurate fashion providing better customer relations with the public. Tom says that without all the support he and Rick have gotten in the form of Public Works Administration to the volunteers in the field they would still be planning their first session.

Facilities Management

Facilities Management has finished the Star Valley Elections steel storage building and they are all moved in. They will soon finish the Star Valley Sheriff's Evidence steel storage building. And, Facilities has also been rebuilding the hoist at the gas shop. They are preparing for several large projects due this fall, some of which include the Courthouse Roof replacement and A/C change out; the Sheriff's office A/C change out and renovation of the 2nd Floor Courthouse Board of Supervisor's area.

Consolidated Roads & Auto Equipment Shops

During the month of June the Copper Division striped the roads that were chip sealed in May, installed a culvert and surfaced River Road in Gisela with granite and surfaced part of Russell Road with granite. Both Copper and Timber Regions assisted in helping put out the Willow fire by supplying equipment and manpower from Payson & Tonto Basin. The fire broke out on June 24th and burned nearly 119,500 acres. In July they chip sealed Old Hwy 88, surfaced Johnson Road with millings and paved Apache Street & a portion of Main Street. in Central Heights. Both Copper & Timber Regionn road crews as well as both division shop personnel attended training sessions held at the Tonto Basin school on July 22nd. The “Noxious Weed” class put on by Brian Jennings, and the “Increasing Workplace Satisfaction” class was put on by Doug Muell from ACIP. There was also a meeting with Supervisor Salas, County Administrator John Nelson and Deputy County Administrator Steve Besich before the training sessions. Vegetation control, blading roads, working on Forest Service roads and hauling granite from Castle Dome pit are all on going projects. And as always, cleaning out ditches, culverts and drains in order to facilitate drainage when it rains. During the months of June and July, the Timber Region Roads Department has been working on chip seal projects on Highline, Moonlight, Walters & Garrels in the Star Valley area. Also chip sealed Houston Mesa Road and Baker Ranch, Tewksbury, and Graham in the Young area. Several employees from the Roads and Shops Departments attended a 2-day Highway Maintenance Welding Techniques & Applications Workshop put on by LTAP in Flagstaff. The instructor for this class was Tom Cook, who gave an excellent hands-on class. The Timber Region attended the Men’s Health Fair and had almost 100% attendance. A new phone system was installed at the Maintenance Yard.

Congratulations to the Timber Shop for their safety record of 1115 days as of August 6th.

Solid Waste

There are several new Recycling programs in place at the landfills. In partnership with the Purchasing Department we are working on an agreement with End of Life Electronics Recycling. As the computers and other electronics are updated and replaced through out the County, they will be collected at the Purchasing Department warehouse. For the general public, the landfills will have an onsite storage for collection of computers, VCR’s, Fax machines, Televisions, radios, printers and scanners. All of these products will be recycled by the End of Life Electronics. To encourage residents to clear their property of fire hazard debris, the brush rate dropped to from \$44.77 to \$22 a ton and free on Saturday at the Russell Gulch Landfill and free on Sundays at the Buckhead Mesa Landfill. To date 527 tons of brush has come in at the \$22 rate and 1,180 vehicles have dropped off brush during the free days. In other news, Randy Burkhalter was the first employee from Public Works to get his earned day off by collecting enough wellness points. Good job Randy!